

Hollywood, Broadway and in popular music, most notably by way of the Motown sound. A cultural revolution begins as this new sound dominates the airwaves. Visual artists such as Romare Bearden, Faith Ringgold and others offer an alternative vision in representations of black art that challenge the aesthetics, power and ultimately the very existence of the so-called "mainstream." By the 1980s, Alice Walker writes about a black woman's quest for independence in *The Color Purple* and wins both the Pulitzer Prize and the outrage of some African Americans who condemn the images of black families she presents in her novel. In the last hour, "The Freedom You Will Take" explores the contemporary cultural landscape that is transformed by the power of African-American film, performance, dance, rap music and spoken word art forms. Spike Lee is acknowledged for his role in ushering in a new wave of independent films by and about African Americans. Viewers are also introduced to members of the younger generation of visual and literary artists who dare to challenge convention.

"People have looked to Henry Hampton's work for a broader understanding of our culture and history," says Tamara E. Robinson, vice president and director of national programming for Thirteen/WNET. "Airing this series is a tribute to his legacy. It will give viewers insight into some of the most provocative artistic contributions of the 20th century," she concludes.

To keep the spirit of *I'll Make Me a World's* impact alive long after the series ends, and to provide more information for use in and out of the classroom, Blackside Inc. has added an educational component that includes a website <http://www.blackside.com>. This comprehensive database includes a 20th century chronology of African-American art; profiles of the artists featured in the series; descriptions of dance, film, literature, music, theater and visual art education programs for students in grades K-12. The website will also contain biographies, video clips and transcripts of further in-depth interviews with the artists featured in the series as well as classroom activities for middle and high school students and teachers.

Major production funding for *I'll Make Me a World* was provided by the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, public television viewers and PBS. Additional funding was provided by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, Dan Rothenberg, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, National Black Programming Consortium, Joyce Foundation, Camille O. Cosby and William H. Cosby, Jr.

## CONGRESSMAN RECEIVES LETTER FROM CHRISTIANS OF NAGALAND: AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTH ASIA

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, recently delivered to me a letter from the government-in-exile of Nagaland praising my previous statement of February 11 on the oppression of Christians in India. The letter also calls for self-determination for all the nations of South Asia.

In the letter, the Prime Minister of Nagaland quotes Secretary of State Albright as a supporter of self-determination. On February 24, the *Washington Post* quoted the Secretary of State as saying, "ethnic groups demanding independence should be allowed to have their own nations." Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. Yet the government of India refuses even to allow the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the people of the other nations they occupy to decide this issue in a free and fair vote, the way that democratic countries decide these things. Instead, they have resorted to state terrorism against the people in these occupied nations.

Recently, there has been a wave of violence against Christians in India. Christians are merely the target of the moment. Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits (dark-skinned aboriginal people), and others have been subjected to similar violence.

Numerous Christian churches and other religious facilities have been destroyed since Christmas by Hindu extremists affiliated with the ruling BJP. A missionary and his two young sons were burned to death. Nuns have been raped. Priests have been murdered. A Christian religious festival was broken up by gunfire. Is this Indian secularism?

The Indian government has killed more than 200,000 Christians since 1947 and the Christians of Nagaland, in the eastern part of India, are involved in one of 17 freedom movements within India's borders. India has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984 and over 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, as well as many thousands of other people.

The holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, the Golden temple in Amritsar, was attacked by the Indian government. Gurdev Singh Kaunke, who was serving as Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh religious official, was killed in police custody by being torn in half. The police disposed of his body. He had been tortured before the Indian government decided to kill him. The very highly revered Babri mosque was destroyed by Hindu militants.

Next month marks two occasions, falling on the same day, that should bring these issues into focus: the 300th anniversary of the Sikh Nation and the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. It is an ironic coincidence that these anniversaries fall at the same time.

Thomas Jefferson was one of the leading voices for American independence and wrote the Declaration of Independence, which sets out the philosophical basis for the freedom that we built into our Constitution and that we enjoy today. In light of this religious oppression and the statements of Secretary Albright and others, I urge the Congress to take strong measures in support of self-determination in South Asia. We should put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and everywhere that people are demanding the right to determine their own future. We should impose the sanctions appropriate under the law for countries that practice religious oppression and violence. We should strongly urge the President to declare India a terrorist state. Finally, we should cut off U.S. aid to India until it begins to behave like a democracy and respects basic human rights, including the right to self-determination.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the letter from the Prime Minister of Nagaland in the RECORD.

PRIME MINISTER (ATO-KILONSER),  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S RE-  
PUBLIC OF NAGALAND,

March 12, 1999.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

(Through our good friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President, Council of Khalistan, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 802, Washington, DC 20006)

RESPECTED SIR: Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh sent us the proceedings and debates of the 106th Congress (First Session) dated Washington 11 February 1999. We have gone through your presentation, Hindu Nationalist Continue To Attack Christians in "Secular" India, with much appreciation and love.

In the light of the assertion of the truth made by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "that ethnic groups demanding independence should be allowed to have their own nations" (as told to the *Washington Post* in Paris on 24 February 1999), your statement that "we should openly declare U.S. support for self-determination for all the peoples of the subcontinent. By these measures we can help bring religious freedom and basic human rights to Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and everyone else in South Asia" makes a lot of sense. Indeed, this is what the Indian-suppressed peoples have been wishing for all these years.

That, Sir, the principled stand you and other policy-makers of the U.S. have taken in this all-important matter has inspired many nationalities and ethnic groups that continue to languish in the merciless world of religious persecution and political suppression. Kindly accept the heartfelt gratitude of the Naga people.

Even as the Naga people pray with renewed hearts for their suffering brothers and sisters belonging to the Christian, Dalit, Muslim and Sikh communities, it is our request that you persevere in your fight for the rights of these oppressed nations and peoples to freedom and justice. May God bless you richly in your endeavor.

Respectfully yours,

TH. MUIVAH.